Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government).*—I want notice.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—Did the Retrenchment Committee investigate the possibility of this amalgamation?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government.)*—Yes. It did.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam.)*—What is the conclusion?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government)*—That it is not possible.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim *(Cranganur).*—On what grounds?

Mr. President.—The Report is made available to the Hon'ble Members.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancheri).*—What are the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee that have been accepted by the Government?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government.)*—The recommendations of the Committee are under the consideration of Government.

Franchise qualification—Travancore and British India.

2. **Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** *(Wadakkancheri).*—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether they are aware that the franchise qualification for the Legislative Assembly in Travancore is rupee one tax and that in British India it is any tax or literacy;

(b) whether any request has been placed before the Government for widening the franchise to the Cochin Legislative Council?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government).*—

(a) The franchise qualification for the Travancore Sree Mulam Assembly based on tax is rupee one. In British India the several Provinces have different franchise qualifications. In the Madras Presidency it is any tax or literacy.

b) Yes.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancheri)* —Is the Government aware that the literacy percentage in Cochin is far higher than that of the Madras Presidency?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government).*—The percentage of this State is very high.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim *(Cranganur).*—Is it higher?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government).*—It is.

Electoral Rolls—Cochin Legislative Council election—preparation of.

3. **Mr. K. M. Kunhi Moideen** *(Kattur).*—Will the Government state:—

(a) whether they have issued instructions for the preparation of electoral rolls for the next election of the Cochin Legislative Council;

(b) whether the rolls are ordered to be prepared on the basis of the existing franchise?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government).*—

(a) Yes.

(b) Yes; but Government are considering the question of extending the existing franchise.

Subsequently Government have issued orders to keep in abeyance the preparation of these rolls until orders are passed on the Franchise Committee Report.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancheri).*—May I know whether we will be right in gathering from the answers to the question that the idea of extending the franchise took shape with the Government after the order for the preparation of the preliminary rolls was given?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government).*—It does not follow and it is not so.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancheri).*—Are we to understand that at the time of issuing orders the Government had an idea of appointing a Committee to go into the question of widening the franchise?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly